Methods in Cell Biology

Edited by

DAVID M. PRESCOTT

VOLUME XV

Methods in Cell Biology

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DAVID M. PRESCOTT

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND
DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER, COLORADO

VOLUME XV

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ACADEMIC PRESS, INC.
111 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10003

United Kingdom Edition published by ACADEMIC PRESS, INC. (LONDON) LTD. 24/28 Oval Road, London NW1

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOG CARD NUMBER: 64-14220

ISBN 0-12-564115-X

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PREFACE

Volume XV of this series continues to present techniques and methods in cell research that have not been published or have been published in sources that are not readily available. Much of the information on experimental techniques in modern cell biology is scattered in a fragmentary fashion throughout the research literature. In addition, the general practice of condensing to the most abbreviated form materials and methods sections of journal articles has led to descriptions that are frequently inadequate guides to techniques. The aim of this volume is to bring together into one compilation complete and detailed treatment of a number of widely useful techniques which have not been published in full detail elsewhere in the literature.

In the absence of firsthand personal instruction, researchers are often reluctant to adopt new techniques. This hesitancy probably stems chiefly from the fact that descriptions in the literature do not contain sufficient detail concerning methodology; in addition, the information given may not be sufficient to estimate the difficulties or practicality of the technique or to judge whether the method can actually provide a suitable solution to the problem under consideration. The presentations in this volume are designed to overcome these drawbacks. They are comprehensive to the extent that they may serve not only as a practical introduction to experimental procedures but also to provide, to some extent, an evaluation of the limitations, potentialities, and current applications of the methods. Only those theoretical considerations needed for proper use of the method are included.

Finally, special emphasis has been placed on inclusion of much reference material in order to guide readers to early and current pertinent literature.

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Chapter 1

Cell Separations by Counterflow Centrifugation

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I. Introduction

Counterflow centrifugation has been available as a technique for cell separation since 1948, when Lindahl first published an account of the method in *Nature* (Lindahl, 1948). In that same year, a patent was also filed in California by MacLeod (1948) for a counterflow centrifugation apparatus designed for a nonbiological application. More recently, Beckman Instruments developed and marketed a rotor which has been used by a number of investigators (Glick et al., 1971; Flangas, 1974; Grabske et al., 1974).

The original apparatus of Lindahl was exceedingly complex, and that of MacLeod was specialized for the concentration of particles of high specific gravity. The Beckman apparatus, however, is quite simple. We have modified